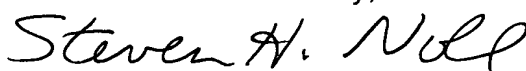


REMARKS

Upon review of claims 1-24 at the time of preparation of the Appeal Brief, Appellants determined that the subject matter of claim 24 is already adequately set forth in claim 10, and therefore claim 24 is duplicative and redundant. Claim 24 accordingly has been cancelled.

The cancellation of claim 24 does not raise any new issues requiring further searching or consideration, and reduces the issues for appeal. Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is therefore respectfully requested.

Submitted by,



(Reg. 28,982)

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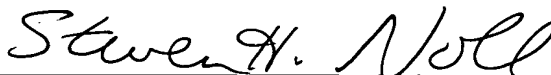
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on December 18, 2003.



STEVEN H. NOLL